

December 15

DOLEFUL ACCOUNTS.

Reports of Conditions at St. Pierre Not Encouraging.

A despatch from Washington yesterday says:

A report to the British foreign office gives a doleful account of the French colonies of St. Pierre and Miquelon and five lesser islets lying off the coast of Newfoundland. These possessions consist of rugged masses of rock with a thick coat of soil, and boast of a little vegetation. There is one safe harbor, St. Pierre, around which has been built the town of that name, the seat of government. Its population in 1903 was some 5400, out of a total of 6500 in the whole colony, but since that time, owing to the growing scarcity of codfish, the consequent decline of trade, and the higher cost of living, some 1000 persons have emigrated to Canada and the United States.

The British consul reports empty sheds, stores, shops and houses in various stages of disrepair and decay; fish-drying yards, care fully prepared with large stones for airing the cod, now choked with weeds, and the surrounding woodwork succumbing to wind and weather; landing stages gradually rotting and falling to pieces, and merchants liquidating and going away, while none come to replace them, as some of the usual signs of bad times now seem to be seen. Everything has to be imported in the way of merchandise, as the islands produce nothing, being used for the fish industry. The cod export, which amounted in 1898 to over \$3,000,000, dropped last year to less than one-half that sum. On an average they have 100 days of fog in a year in these islands.

HEAVY ICE IN ARMS.

Several Vessels Caught in Last Week's Freeze.

SITUATION IS NOW SERIOUS

Tug Potomac and Steamer Atlantic Bucking Heavy Floe.

The situation at Bay of Islands, N. F., at present is far from encouraging, as ice of considerable thickness has appeared in the arms and many of the vessels in Middle Arm were caught with their nets.

The first news was received here Thursday, coming from a reliable source, and stated that many of the vessels had been nipped and that the steamer Atlantic of the Atlantic Fisheries Co. of Lunenburg, N. S., was hard at work trying to free them.

Later despatches stated that the Humber had frozen over and that way down to Wood's island the ice was five inches in thickness.

While at work butting the ice, the Atlantic lost her propeller, but found it again and resumed her labors as soon as it was found.

Meanwhile, the Potomac, which had been to North Sydney, C. B., for coal and supplies, returned, and immediately began the work of trying to free the vessels and nets. Up to Saturday she was still at it and since then nothing has been heard from there.

To add to the ice troubles of the fleet, herring have not been plenty. No gulf ice has yet been reported, but even at that, with so much ice forming so quickly and heavy in the arms, the vessel owners here consider the situation serious and many have wired the captains in charge of their fleets to take no chances of being frozen in.

The matter of ice now will make much difference in securing cargoes of herring and its continuance or disappearance will make the difference between one of the best and a poor season, as the case may be.

It is hoped that the Potomac and Atlantic may be successful in their work in Middle Arm and that the crafts may be able to load before another heavy freeze sets in.

A telegram received here late Saturday evening, is probably the last word received from the fleet. It was brief, but meant considerable, "Everything frozen up. Ice will probably go out later."

Since then, messages sent the vessels there have been returned by the operator with the words, "cannot be delivered."

Steam Trawler Spray Has Another Small Trip.

The steam trawler Spray arrived at Boston yesterday with another small trip having 11,000 pounds of fresh fish. The craft met with an accident on Saturday, one of the flanges of the pump giving out, and was obliged to return to port. Repairs will be made as soon as possible.

Pacific Halibut.

Several cars of western halibut at Boston this morning.

LOST HER CABLE.

Sch. Admiral Dewey at Halifax with a Few Halibut

Had Six Weeks of Worst Kind of Weather.

Another example of the terrible weather our vessels are encountering on the fishing banks was furnished Saturday by the arrival at Halifax, N. S., of the fresh halibuter sch. Admiral Dewey, Capt. James Bowie, of this port with but 6000 pounds of halibut to show for a six weeks beating and hanging about. By permission of the Canadian government the fare was sold there.

Capt. Bowie reported terrible weather and his small fare was not the least of his hard luck for he had lost his whole string of cable on Green Bank recently.

Capt. Bowie, in speaking of the weather, said it was about the worst he ever encountered and for the past 17 days it had been impossible to put a dory over the side.

The Dewey will probably secure new cable at Halifax and make another start.

PERFORATED SAILS.

Although the assertion recently made by an Italian sea captain that the power of sails was increased by their being perforated was ridiculed, it has just been proved that he was right. His theory was that the force of the wind cannot fairly take effect on an inflated sail because of the cushion of immovable air that fills up the hollow. To prevent the creation and presence of that cushion he pierced his sails with many holes, through which the wind blew, the balance of the air pressure striking against the canvas and exercising its full effect. Several experiments have been made on these lines, and the results are declared to have been eminently satisfactory, says the N. Y. Marine Journal.

Fresh Bait.

The torchers had 60 barrels of fresh herring Saturday, which is quite a large amount for so late in the season.

New Fish Company Organized.

A new fish company, the B. S. Webber Fish Co. has been organized here with a capital of \$1,000, 200 shares \$50 each, Directors, James S. Steele, president; Howard Steele, treasurer, and Benj. S. Webber.

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.
Sch. Galatea, shore.
Sch. Mary E. Silveira, shore.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, shore.
Sch. Hortense, shore.
Sch. Seacomet, shore.
Sch. Etta Mildred, shore.
Sch. Mand F. Silva, shore.
Sen. Lafayette, shore.
Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.
Sch. Henry M. Stanley, Bay of Islands,
N. F., 1250 bbls. salt herring.

Boston.

Sch. Valentinna, 8000 pollock.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, 4000 haddock,
500 cod, 4000 hake.
Sch. Margaret Dillon, 2500 haddock, 1000
cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, 6500 haddock,
700 cod, 800 hake.
Sch. Actor, 1500 haddock, 4000 cod, 2000
hake.
Sch. Terra Nova, 15,000 haddock, 7000 cod,
2000 hake.
Haddock \$4.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$4;
market cod, \$2 to \$4; hake, \$2 to \$3.25;
pollock, \$3.50.

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December 17
**BRINGS FIRST
FROZEN CARGO.**

**Sch. Esperanto Arrived from
Bay of Islands Today**

MISSING CRAFT HEARD FROM.

**Sch. Independance Makes Best
Run of the Season.**

Sch. Esperanto, Capt Henry Arsenault, arrived here this morning from Bay of Islands, N. F., with the first cargo of frozen herring of the season. The craft is owned by Orlando Merchant and hauled in at the wharf this forenoon, and the fare will be shipped by freight express to New York and other cities.

The craft sailed from here November 3, in company with schs. Avalon and Richard Walnwright, fitted to secure, by the pan process, a cargo of artificially-frozen cargo of herring. For several seasons, Mr. Merchant has pursued this method of securing an early cargo and has been very successful, having for several years in succession had the first cargo of frozen herring on the market. Last year, he had the first cargo, sch. Golden-Rod arriving December 12, five days earlier than the first cargo this year.

Capt. Arsenault reports a fine passage home, fair wind all the way, but very light part of the time. He left Bay of Islands Tuesday afternoon. There was some frost before he left and so part of the cargo is natural frost goods.

Sch. Independence II, Capt. Lemuel Firth, arrived here yesterday afternoon, deeply laden, after a fine passage from Bay of Islands with a full cargo of salt herring.

The Independence left Bay of Islands Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock and made the passage in two hours short of five days, which is fine work.

Capt. Firth reports a good chance along with fair wind most of the way. Sch. Georgie Campbell and others of this port and five Lunenburg, C. B., vessels, all laden with salt herring left in company with the Independence.]

A St. Pierre, Miquelon, dispatch of Dec. 11, says that the British sch. Britannia, bound to Boston with a cargo of salt herring, arrived at the first named port on the above date with her hull damaged and leaking badly and with about all her sails blown away.

The steamer Bruce, which arrived at North Sydney, C. B., from Bay of Islands, N. F., reported passing 10 American herring laden vessels bound home. The Bruce encountered heavy weathers.

Sch. Independence II. brings the largest cargo of salt herring of the season, having 3119 barrels.

The Lunenburg sch. Collector, under charter by Gloucester parties, and which was driven ashore during the same gale in which sch. Alert was lost, being piled up only a few miles from her, has resisted all efforts of tugboats to float her and will probably be a total loss.

Sch. Nourmahal is bound home from Bay of Islands, N. F., with a full cargo of salt herring. Her arrival, as well as that of schs. Arabia and Georgie Campbell is hourly expected.

Sch. Arcadia, bound from here for Bay of

Islands, N. F., for a cargo of frozen herring, was at Port au Basques on Friday.

Sch. Britannia, which put into St. Pierre so badly damaged, was bound to Boston with her cargo of salt herring. She is owned by Mr. Pettipas, a well known Bay of Islands merchant, and left there for Boston, November 28. Vessels that left in company with her arrived here quite a while ago after very hard passages, and as the days went by with no word from here, grave fears were expressed for her safety. She must have had very hard weather and was fortunate to reach St. Pierre.

Sch. Lena and Maud has secured a full load of salt herring at Bay of Islands.

The Bay of Islands, N. F., Western Star has the following items of interest regarding the herring fishery:

"Since the last issue of this paper the herring fishery at North Arm has been almost nil. But at Middle Arm good fishing was had during most of last week. Two vessels finished loading, and others are nearing completion.

"The frozen herring season has now commenced, and promises to be successful. The price has opened at \$2.50 per barrel from the net. Keen competition is setting in, and the price is likely to go considerably higher. Dory fishermen have been considerably hampered by the recent storms, and the advantages of the larger boat have been clearly demonstrated.

"The fleet of vessels now in this bay in quest of herring cargoes is said to be larger than of any previous occasion, and if all succeed in getting cargoes, the fishery will be one of the largest on record.

"In addition to those now here, other vessels are on the way to this port; while others recently left with salt cargoes for market, intend returning for frozen cargoes; so that should weather conditions favor, the fishery is likely to be a late one this season.

Sch. Muriel M. Young arrived Thursday for herring. She is a new vessel just off the stocks in Lunenburg.

"H. M. S. Brilliant has finished her mission on fishery protection service, and sailed Monday for Bermuda via St. John's.

"One of the crew of the American vessel Veda M. McKown is suffering from an abscess, and was brought to Birchy Cove Friday for treatment. His name is Rose, and belongs to Gloucester.

The American vessel M. B. Stetson, arrived Wednesday for herring cargo for Capt. T. Nicholson, of Bucksport, Me. The Ingomar, on second trip, Lottie Merchant, Madonna and Bohemia arrived Friday.

"A young man named Cyril Simonds, of Bonne Bay, who was fishing here on the American vessel Veda M. McKown, was landed on Friday for medical treatment. He is suffering from an abscess under the left arm, and is in a delicate condition.

"Sch. B. G. Anderson, Capt. John Hackett, arrived at Wood Island on the 15th inst, from Gloucester, beating four American vessels which left three days ahead of her. She will now take a frozen cargo.

"One of the crew, George Hilliard, of a Rose Blanche fishing smack, was brought in Friday from Middle Arm. He is suffering from sore hands, one of which is swollen twice its normal size, and the poor fellow had to abandon the fishery. He has a wife and five children, and since last March has had hard luck, having earned only three dollars.

"Capt. Ross, who brought the unfortunate man to Birchy Cove on sch. Veda M. McKown, started a subscription among those on the vessel, and raised the following amount:

Chaney Hall, Leslie Mallock, Fred Lumsden, Hezekiah Wilton, Patrick Nolan, William Morrissey, John Galliot, James Trahan, Mich. Smith, James Bailey, and Laughlin McLean \$1 each; Capt. Ross, \$2; Capt. Turner, 50c; Amos Lundregan, George Lang, Samuel White, Albert Bolan, John Young, Andrew Minor, John Simmons, James Batten, Alphens Hedge, Eohrain

Lang, Martin Caines, Henry Clark, Thomas Wilton, William Fraser, William Flynn, Charles Gushue, Thomas Minor, Ambrose Minor, William Halfyard, Murdock Beaton, Amos Hillier, John Fitzpatrick, Samuel Simons, 50c. each; Arthur Simmons, 30c.; Arthur Lang, 25c.; total, \$25.60.

"Hilliard's case is deserving of the assistance of all charitably inclined, and further contributions on his behalf will be gratefully received."

One of the crew of the British cruiser Brilliant, named McPherson, was drowned a week ago Wednesday and the body was not recovered. He was 27 years of age and a native of Scotland.

In speaking of the recent case of net stealing, the Western Star says the nets were secreted on board sch. Colonial without the knowledge of the skipper, Capt. Smith. They were identified by means of private marks.

December 17
DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Independence II, Bay of Islands, N. F., 2119 bbls. salt herring.

Sch. Esperanto, Bay of Islands, N. F., 1050 bbls. frozen herring, 75 bbls. salt herring.

Sch. Manomet, shore.

Sch. Rose Standish, shore.

Sch. Actor, shore.

Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, shore.

Sch. A. C. Newhall, shore.

Boston.

Sch. Kernwood, 3500 haddock, 1500 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, 4000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, 2000 haddock, 3500 cod.

Sch. Dorothy, 2500 haddock, 800 cod, 600 hake.

Sch. Massasoit, 5000 cod.

Sch. Bertha M. Bailey, 2500 haddock, 200 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Moacanin, 6000 haddock, 3000 cod, 6000 hake.

Steamer Spray, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Yakima, 8000 haddock, 4000 cod.

Sch. Louise R. Silva, 2800 haddock, 8000 cod.

Sch. Mildred V. Nunan, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Mary T. Fallon, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Seacornett, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Motor, 14,000 cod.

Sch. Priscilla, 1500 haddock, 4500 cod, 1500 hake.

Sch. Mina Swim, 5000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Muriel, 30,000 haddock, 14,000 cod, 6000 hake.

Haddock, \$4 to \$5.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$4.50 to \$5; market cod, \$4.50 to \$5; hake, \$4.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Cecil H. Low was at Portland Thursday with 4000 pounds of fresh halibut.